

failed to find only a very few birds, although the grounds were extensive. Mr. Stone has shot over this ground for twenty-five years and this is the only year in his experience that no defined flight of Woodcock has been noted by him. From what I have learned I am of the belief that the flight in Massachusetts passed during the last few days in September and first few days in October.

*Sterna tschegrava*.—Cape Cod, Mass., Sept. 20, 1893. Two Caspian Terns recently came into my possession which were taken on or about the above date. Both birds proved to be females on dissection, one being an adult, the other immature.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Effect of the Great Cyclone of August 26–27 upon Certain Species of Birds.—The cyclone which devastated the coast of South Carolina was the most destructive which has ever been recorded. About 3 o'clock P. M., a Frigate Bird (*Fregata aquila*) was seen, and shot at twice but unfortunately was not secured. A few days after the cyclone I made a trip to Long Island, S. C., which lies east of Sullivan's Island, and saw and examined countless numbers of *Puffinus major* dead upon the beach. Only a single example of *Puffinus auduboni* was observed, while a great many *Pelecanus fuscus* were found strewn along the beach for miles. Royal Terns (*Sterna maxima*) were shot at Barnwell C. H., which is about eighty-five miles from the sea.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.*

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

### Popular vs. Scientific Ornithology.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sirs*,—Mr. Brewster's gentle admonition in 'The Auk' of October last (Vol. X, p. 365) seems to call for an explanation of my position. The reasons I turn more readily to a literary than to a scientific channel of expression are several, not to speak of the fact that I am naturally of literary rather than scientific proclivities. There is, first, my great desire to bring into the lives of others the delights to be found in the study of Nature, which necessitates the using of an unscientific publication, and a title that shall attract, even though it may, in a measure, "ambush" my subject.